

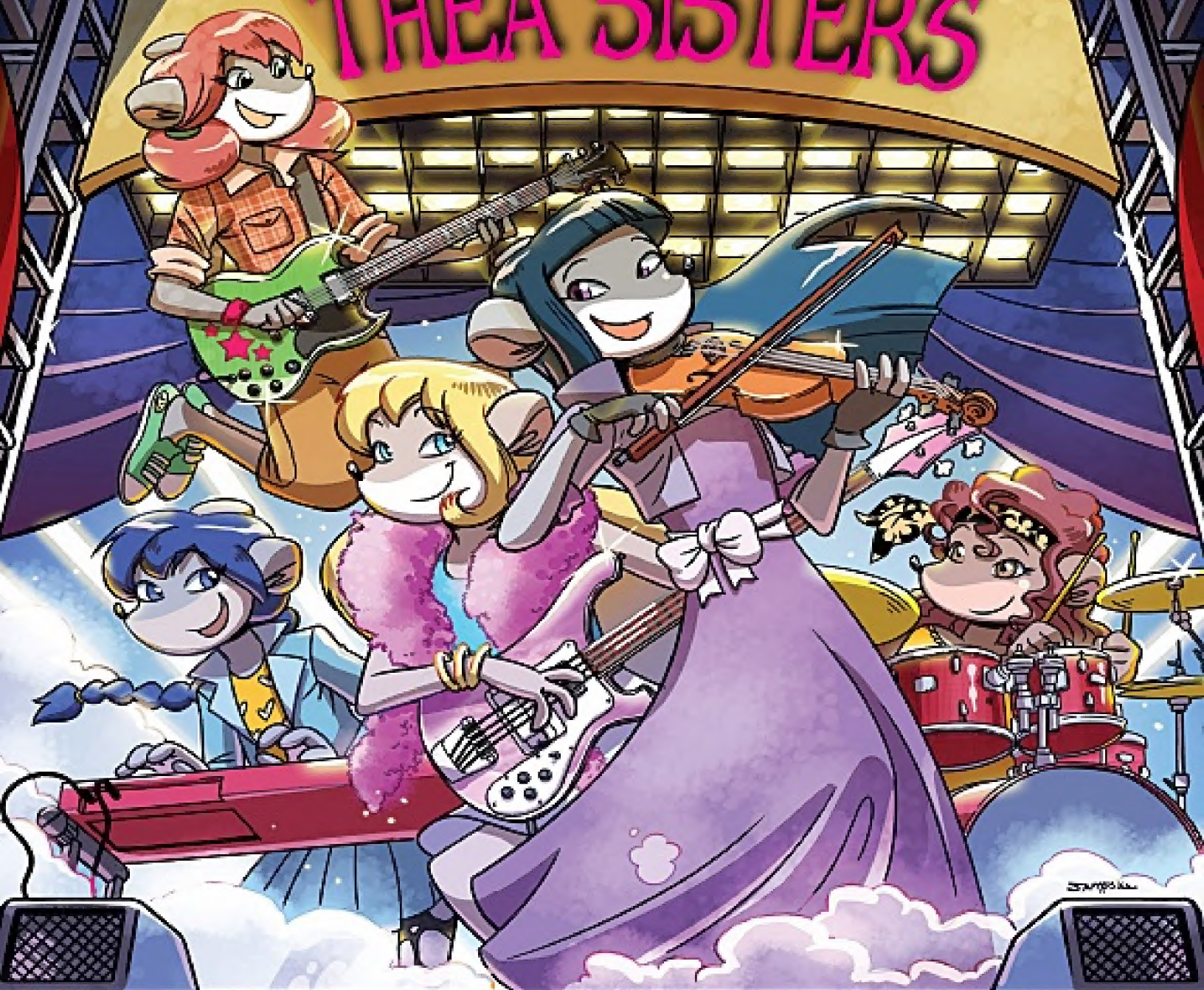



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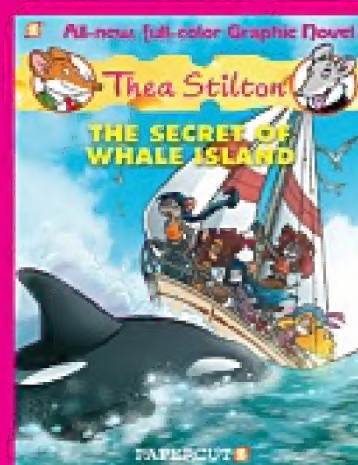


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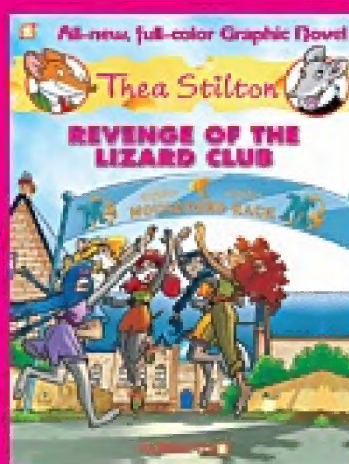
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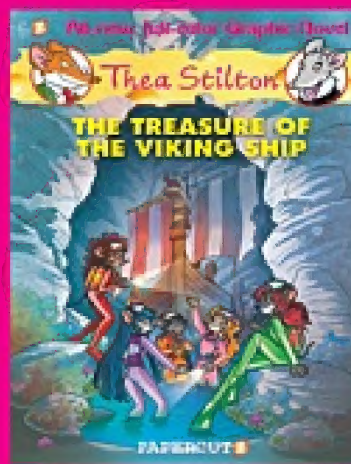
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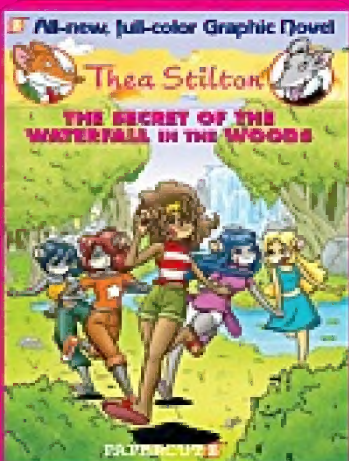
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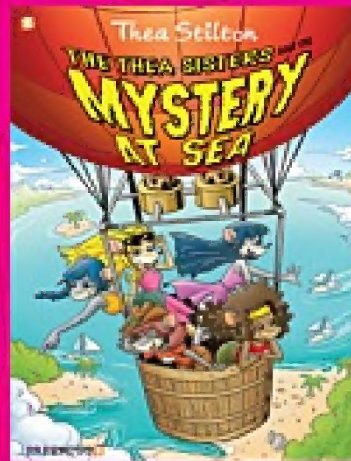
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"A Song for the
Thea Sisters"

Thea Stilton

A SONG FOR THE THEA SISTERS

by Thea Stilton



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New York

A SONG FOR THE THEA SISTERS

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ON *Whale Island*, IT'S A DAY LIKE SO MANY OTHERS... BUT FOR THE STUDENTS AT MOUSEFORD ACADEMY...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT, GIRLS! DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!

...IT'S A LITTLE LESS SO.

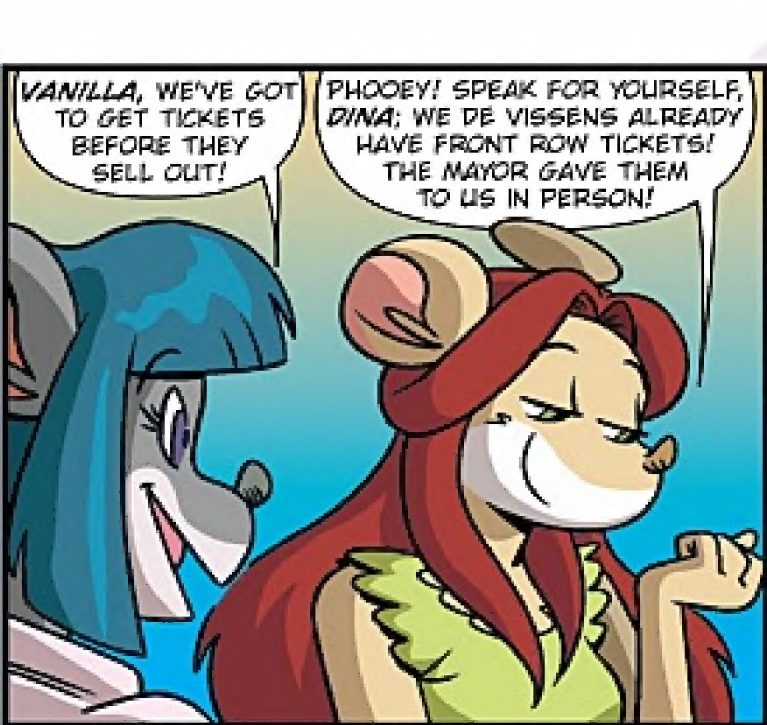
ALICIA, **6SOS**'S PERFORMING ON WHALE ISLAND?

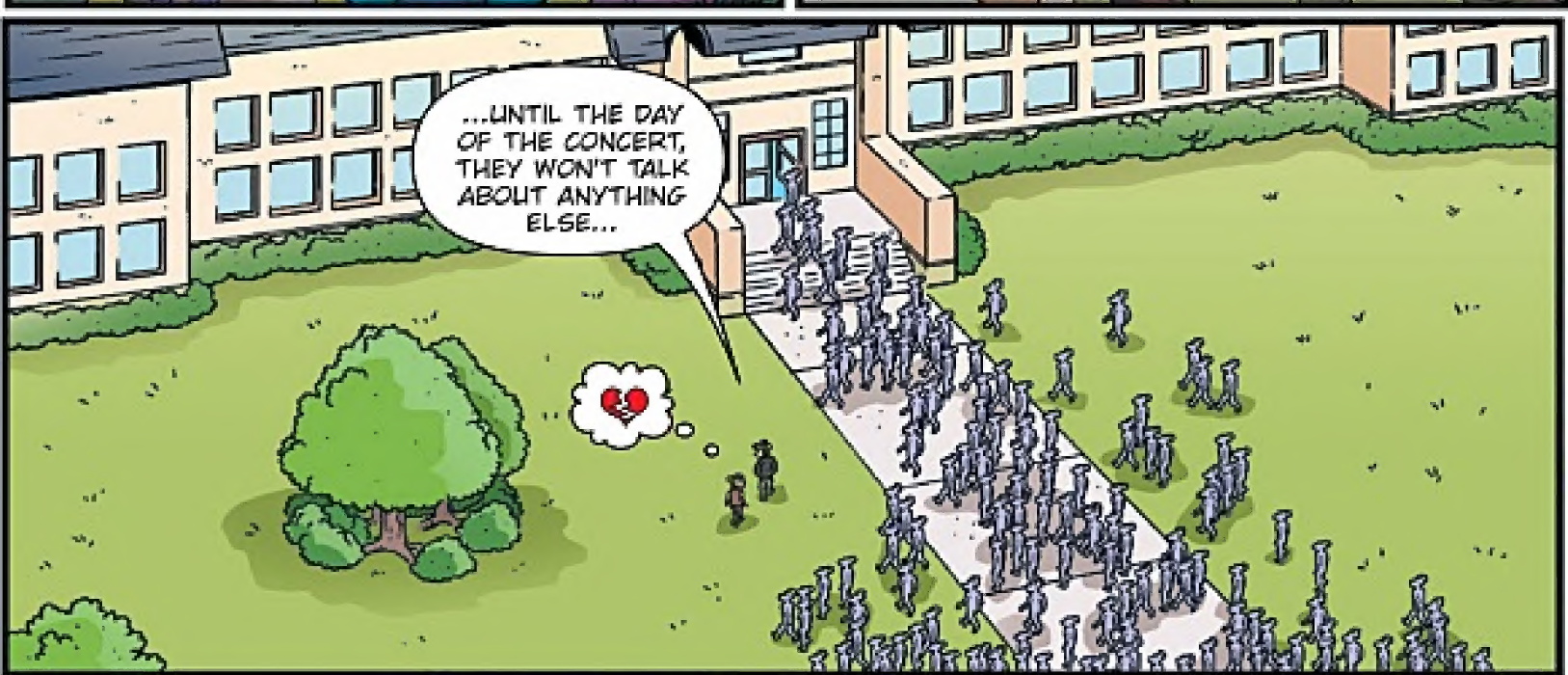
YES, DINA! ISN'T THAT AWESOME NEWS? WE'LL FINALLY GET TO SEE **6 SECONDS OF SPRING** LIVE!

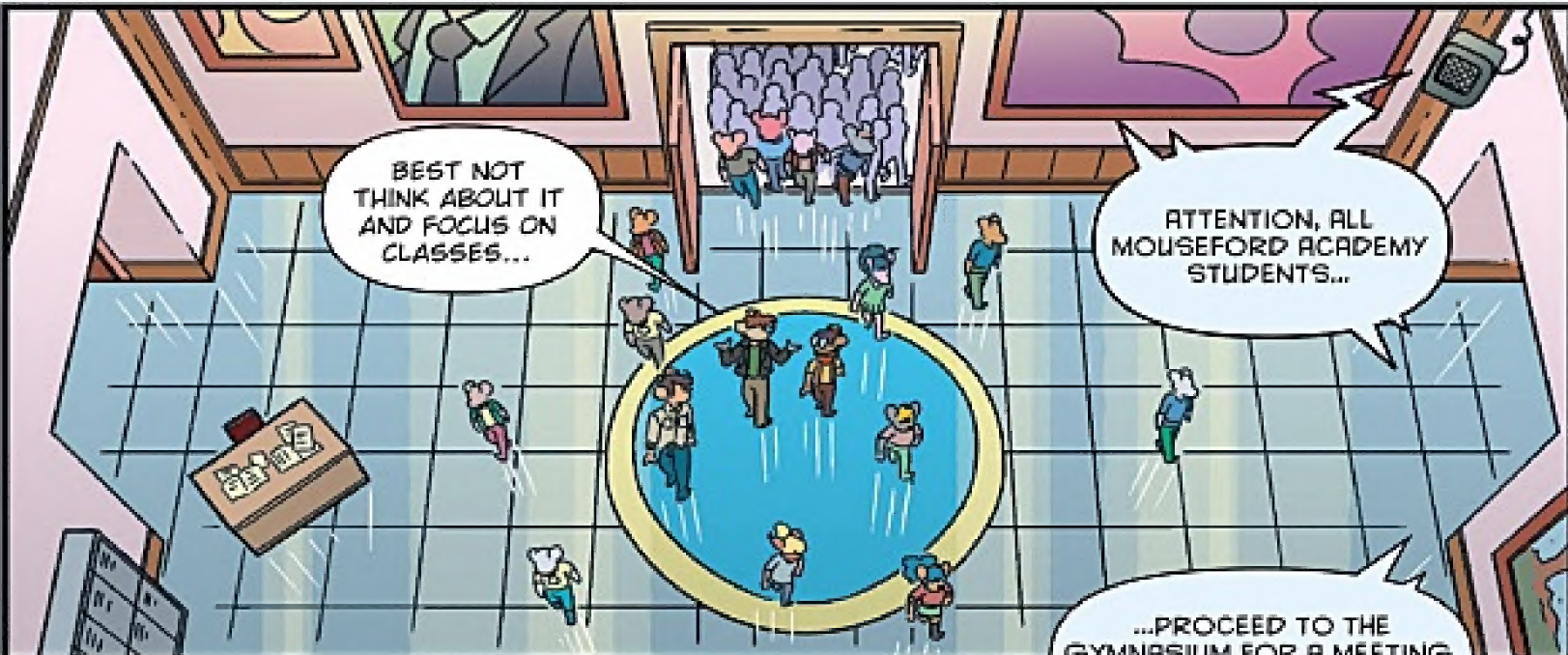
WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO ALMOST ALL OF THEIR CONCERTS...BUT EVERY TIME'S LIKE THE FIRST!

HEY, KIDS!

ARE YOU READY TO SING WITH US?

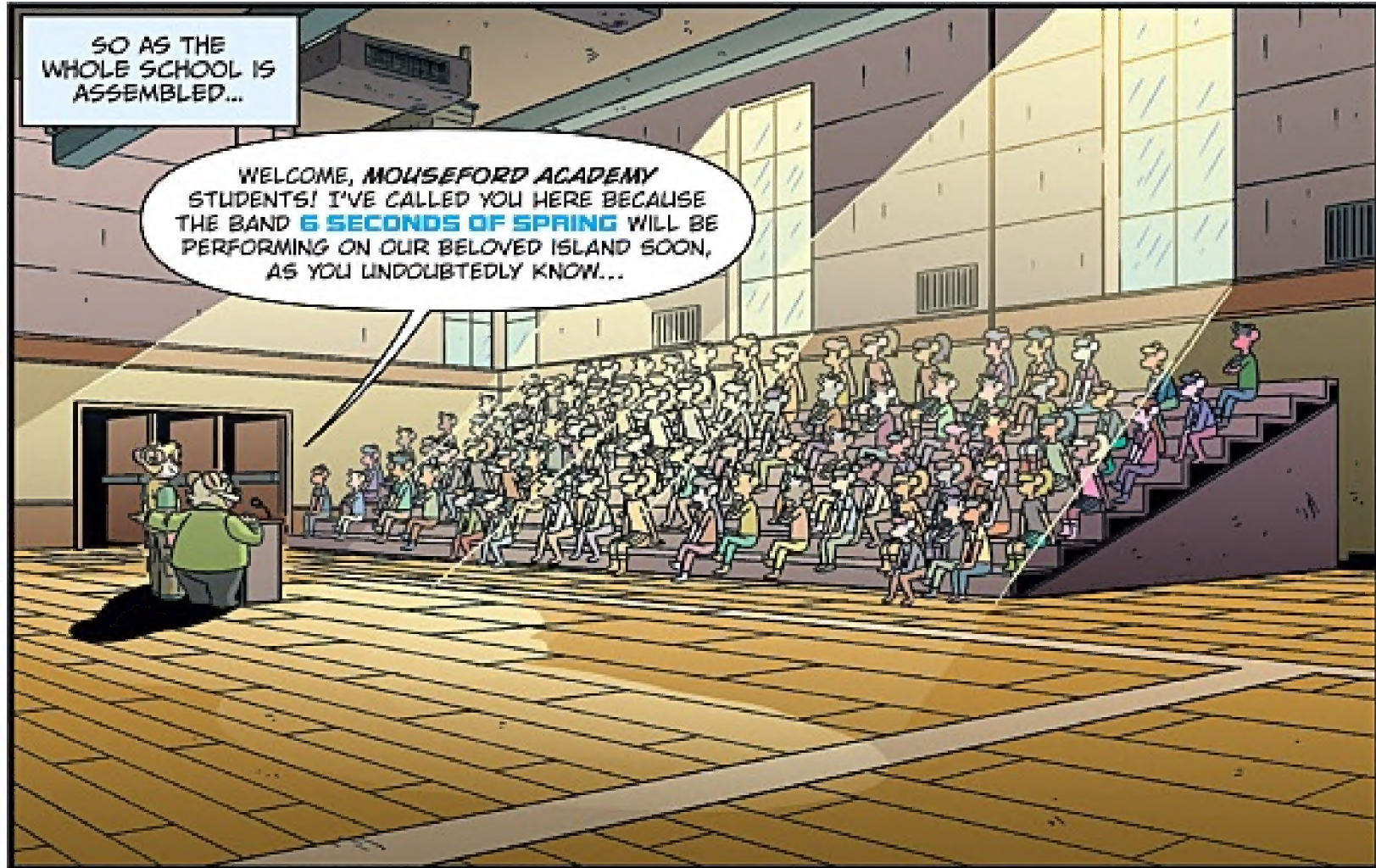






SO AS THE
WHOLE SCHOOL IS
ASSEMBLED...

WELCOME, *MOUSEFORD ACADEMY*
STUDENTS! I'VE CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE
THE BAND **6 SECONDS OF SPRING** WILL BE
PERFORMING ON OUR BELOVED ISLAND SOON,
AS YOU *LINDOUBTEDLY* KNOW...



THEY'RE DOING
THE CONCERT AS A
BENEFIT TO RAISE MONEY
TO HELP US CONTINUE
OUR WORK TO SAVE
THE ENVIRONMENT.

BUT THE GOOD
NEWS DOESN'T
END THERE!



6SOS HAS DECIDED
THAT IT WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE TO HAVE
ONE OF **YOU** OPEN
THEIR CONCERT!

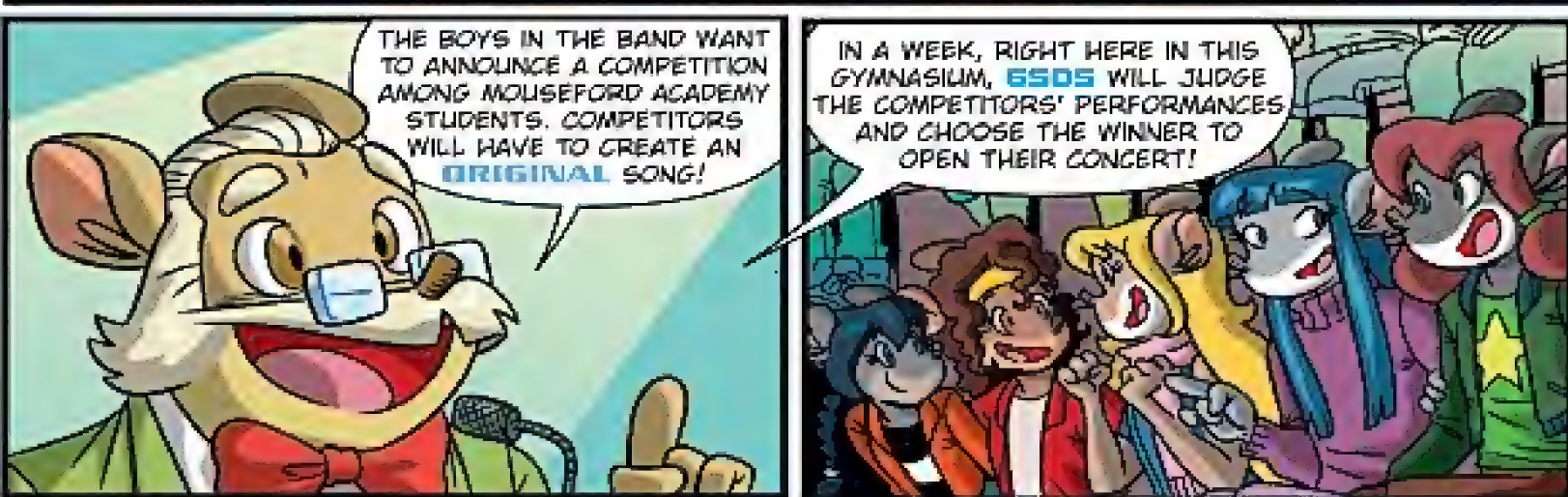




WHAT? ONE OF US?
BUT... THAT'S
GREAT NEWS!

HOW'S THAT
POSSIBLE?

WE'LL BE
ONSTAGE WITH
SSOS!

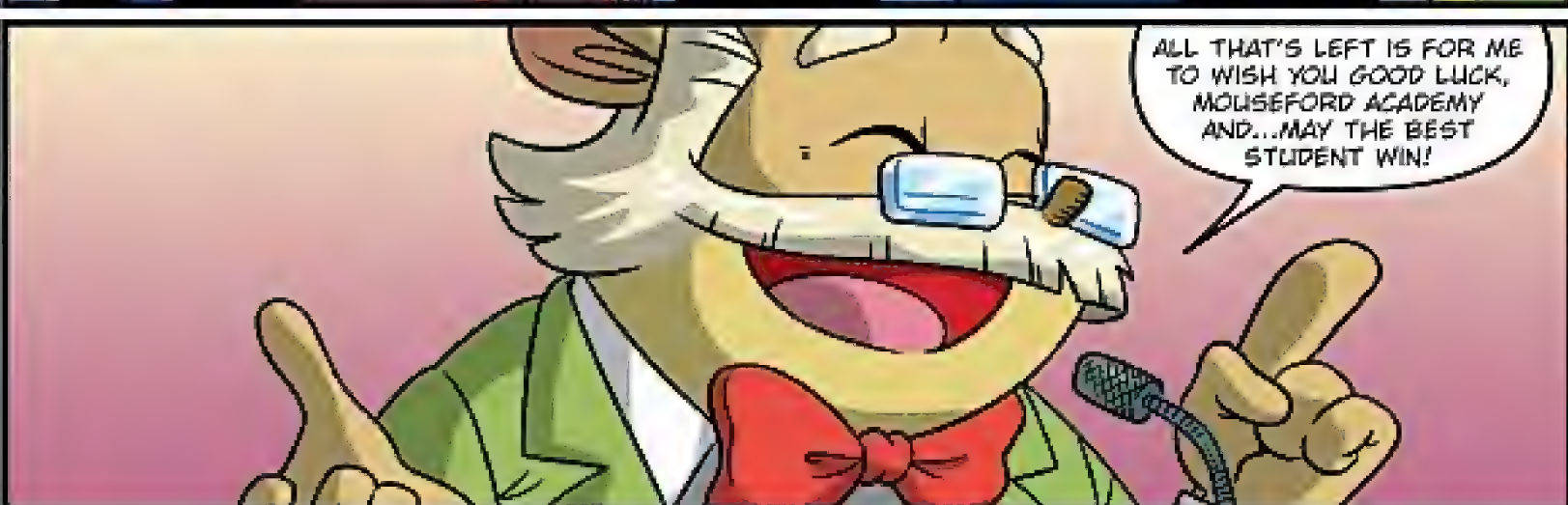


THE BOYS IN THE BAND WANT
TO ANNOUNCE A COMPETITION
AMONG MOUSEFORD ACADEMY
STUDENTS. COMPETITORS
WILL HAVE TO CREATE AN
ORIGINAL SONG!


IN A WEEK, RIGHT HERE IN THIS
GYMNASIUM, **SSOS** WILL JUDGE
THE COMPETITORS' PERFORMANCES
AND CHOOSE THE WINNER TO
OPEN THEIR CONCERT!




WHETHER YOU PERFORM AS A SOLOIST
OR A GROUP DOESN'T MATTER. THE
IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU
HAVE TO HAVE AN INSTRUMENT
ACCOMPANY YOUR SINGING.




ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME
TO WISH YOU GOOD LUCK,
MOUSEFORD ACADEMY
AND... MAY THE BEST
STUDENT WIN!




OF COURSE THE
BEST WILL WIN...
BECAUSE I'M GOING
TO WIN!



"I CAN ALREADY SEE
MYSELF ON THE SET OF
MY MUSIC VIDEO..."




"RECORDING COMPANIES WILL COMPETE FOR MY
TALENT...I'LL BE A STAR IN ALL THE TV SHOWS..."




OH, REALLY, VANILLA?
AND HOW DO YOU THINK
YOU'LL MANAGE THAT,
LITTLE SISTER?

YOU'VE ALWAYS REFUSED
TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY AN
INSTRUMENT...AND I DOUBT
YOU'LL WANT TO PUT THE WORK
INTO WRITING A SONG...




VIC, YOU'RE FORGETTING
THE ACE UP MY
SLEEVE...

HEY,
CONNIE!



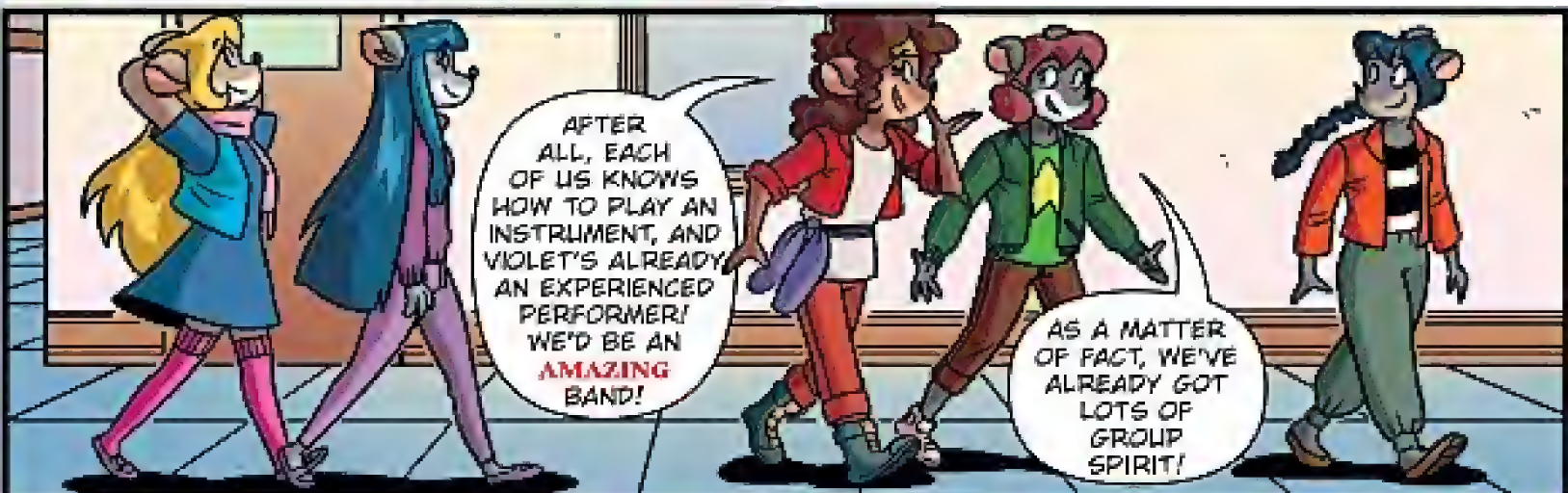
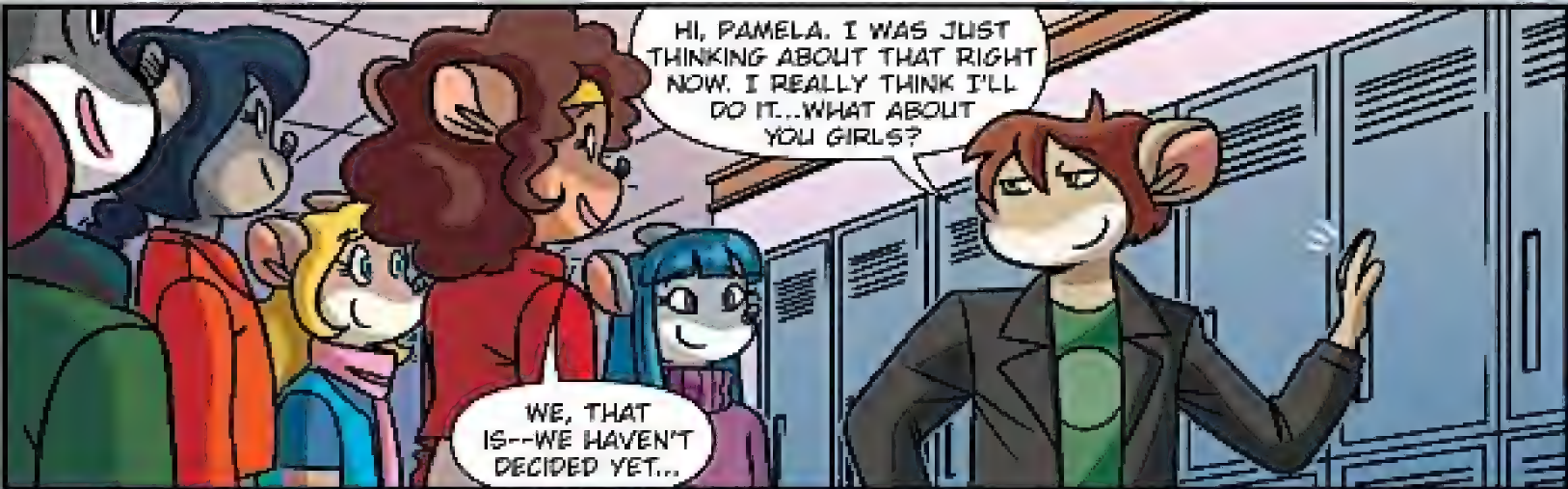
IF I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY, YOU
LIKE TO WRITE
SONGS, RIGHT?

VANILLA
NEVER
CHANGES!



WELL, YES,
THAT IS...I'VE ALWAYS
WRITTEN THEM JUST
FOR MYSELF, AND--









A FEW DAYS
LATER...

WE'LL NEVER
DO IT!

OF COURSE, WE'LL NEVER DO IT! AM I
THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THE LINES,
"THE CAR IS READY, HURRY UP! ENGINES
ARE ON...DON'T TAKE A NAP!"
DON'T WORK?

FOR THAT MATTER, I'M NOT TOO
SURE ABOUT THE PART THAT
GOES, "OH, NO, WHAT'S UP?
I'VE LOST MY MAKE-UP!"

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU
TRY, "ENGINES ARE
ON, HURRY-UP..."

...FOR THIS
ADVENTURE YOU
DON'T NEED YOUR
MAKE-UP!"

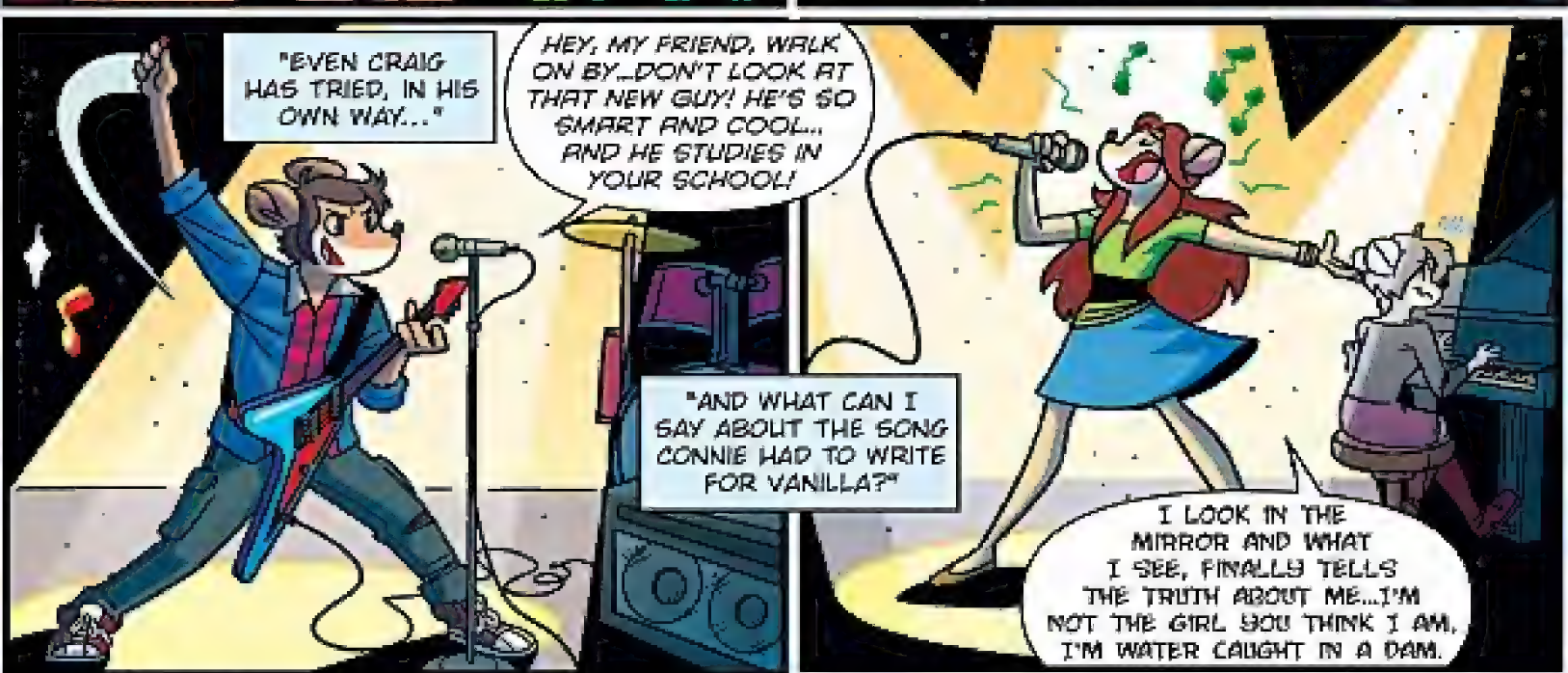
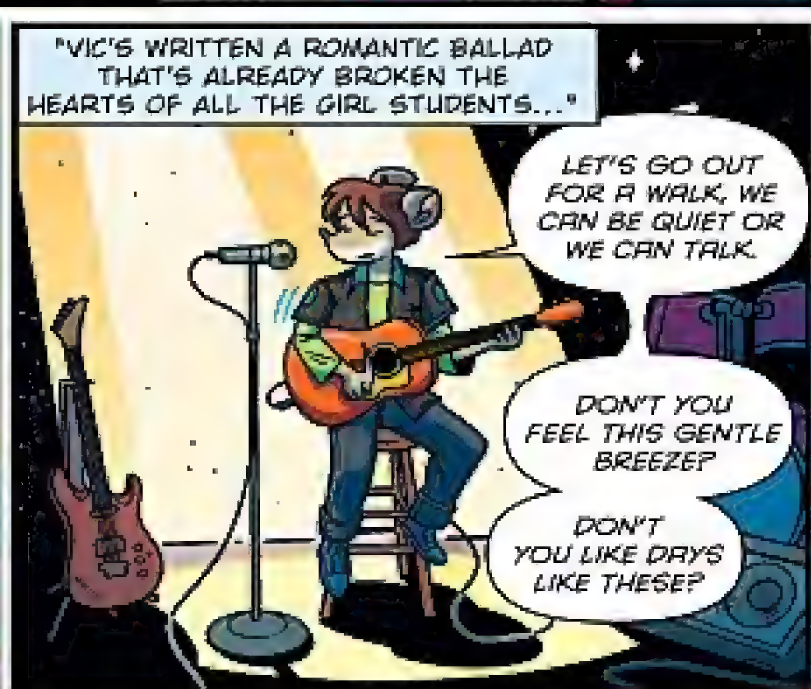
UM...YOU'RE RIGHT!
GREAT IDEA!

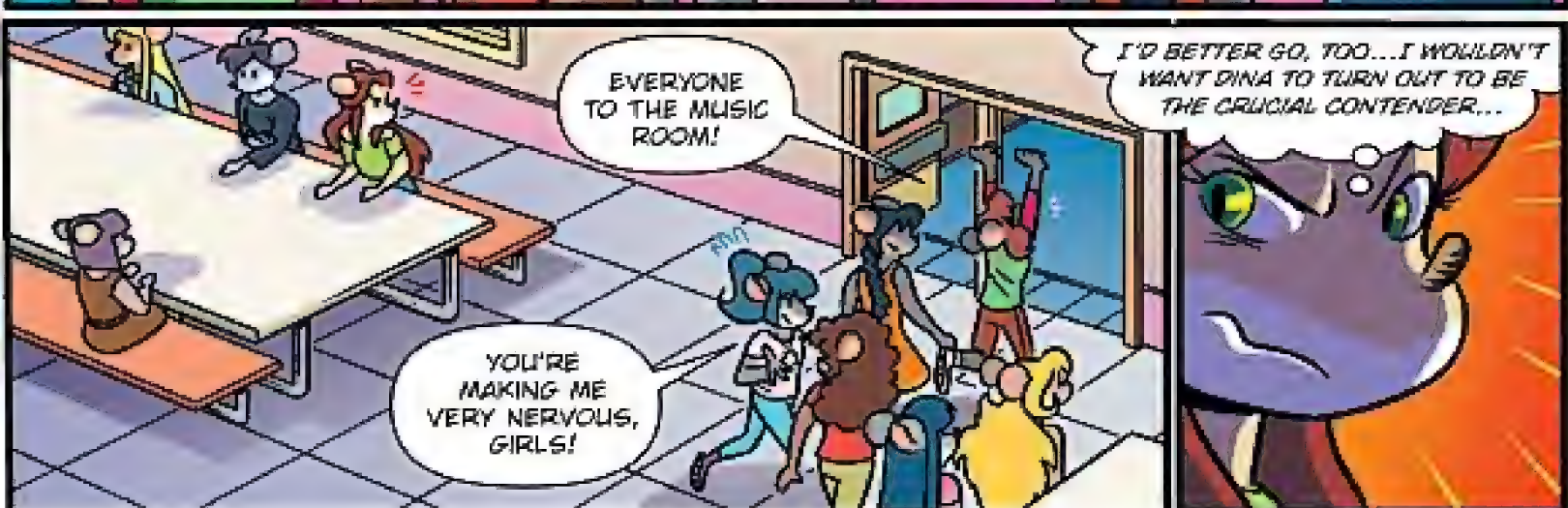
WHY DIDN'T I
THINK OF
THAT!

DINA, YOU'RE A BORN
SINGER-SONGWRITER!

AND ALSO
MY FAVORITE
DIPLOMAT!

YOU'RE
WELCOME, GIRLS!
I LIKE WRITING
SONGS. I REALLY
ENJOYED
WRITING
MINE!



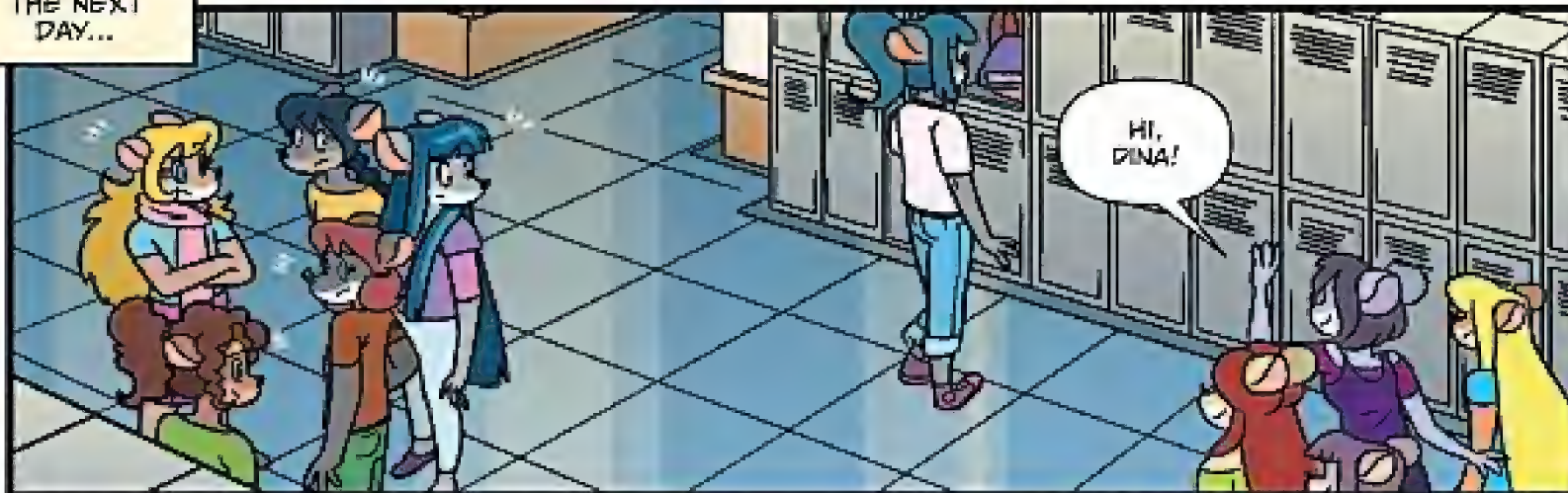








THE NEXT
DAY...





AND SO THE SHARP...
BLAH BLAH BLAH... MAJOR KEY...
BLAH BLAH BLAH... 4/4 TIME... BLAH
BLAH BLAH... IT'S A QUESTION OF
RHYTHM... BLAH BLAH BLAH...
BECAUSE THE LYRICS HAVE TO
GO WITH THE MUSIC...

...GREAT IDEA OF
VANILLA'S TO BRING DINA TO
THE HILLS TO GET HER SICK...
BUT NOW I'M GETTING
SICK MYSELF!



YOUR SONG, ESPECIALLY
IN THE REFRAIN... BLAH BLAH
BLAH... PERFECT LYRICS...
BLAH BLAH BLAH...
CATCHY TUNE...

BUT THE TRUTH IS
THAT I FEEL GUILTY...
DINA REALLY LOVES
MUSIC... AND SHE
DESERVES TO
WIN...

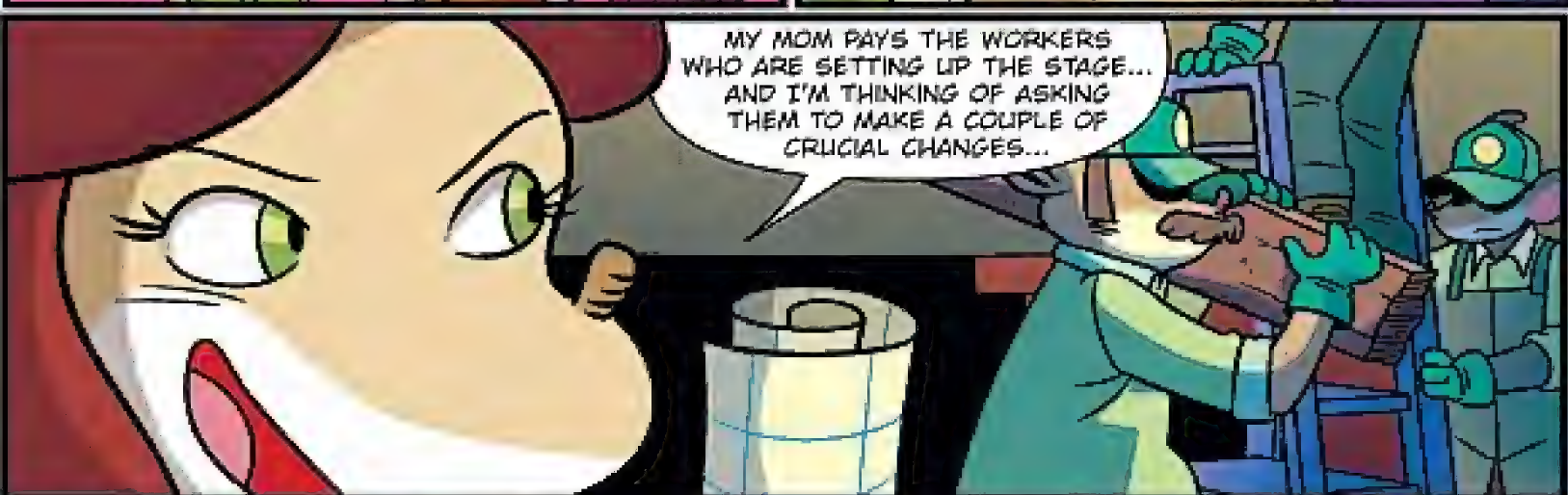
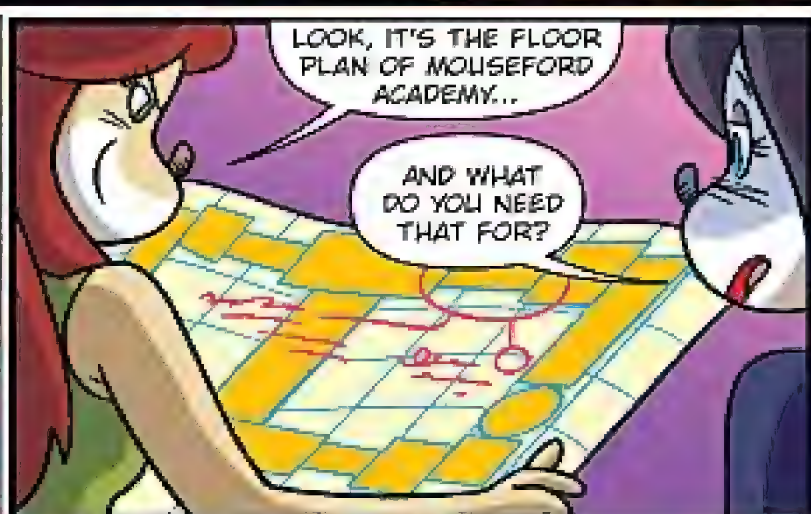
THANKS, DINA...
I THINK YOUR SONG IS
REALLY PRETTY, TOO! WHAT
DO YOU THINK--SHALL WE
GO BACK TO THE ACADEMY?
I'M FREEZING!

HA! HA! SURE! IT
WAS FUN WALKING WITH
YOU... WE SHOULD DO
IT MORE OFTEN!

YOU
THINK?!

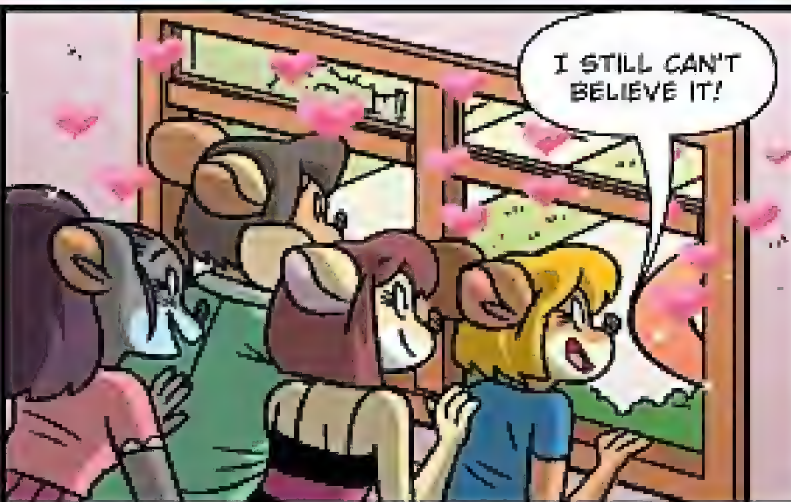




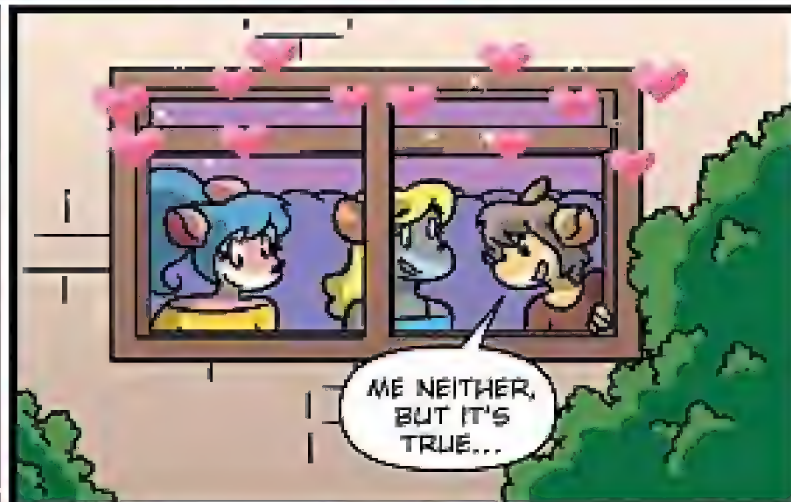


THE FATEFUL DAY HAS
FINALLY ARRIVED!

HURRY,
HURRY!
THEY'RE
COMING!



I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!



ME NEITHER,
BUT IT'S
TRUE...

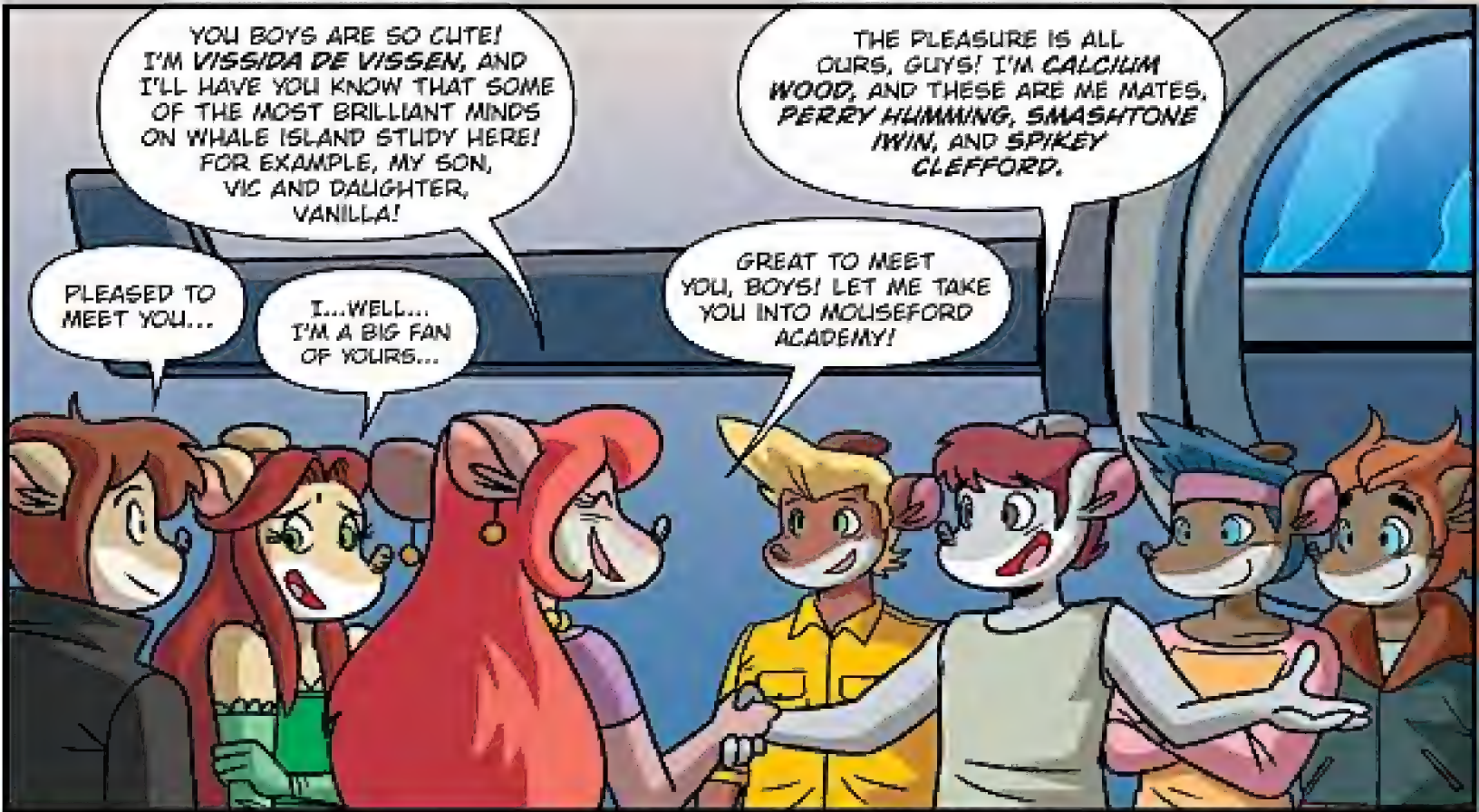
...6
SECONDS OF
SPRING IS
HERE!





WELCOME
TO **MOUSEFORD**
ACADEMY, BOYS! IT'S
AN HONOR TO HAVE
YOU HERE!

THE PLEASURE IS
ALL OURS! WE'VE HEARD
SO MUCH ABOUT THIS
SCHOOL!



YOU BOYS ARE SO CUTE! I'M VISSIDA DE VISSSEN, AND I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT SOME OF THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS ON WHALE ISLAND STUDY HERE! FOR EXAMPLE, MY SON, VIC AND DAUGHTER, VANILLA!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU...

I...WELL... I'M A BIG FAN OF YOURS...

THE PLEASURE IS ALL OURS, GUYS! I'M CALCIUM WOOD, AND THESE ARE ME MATES, PERRY HUMMING, SMASHTONE IWIN, AND SPIKEY CLEFFORD.

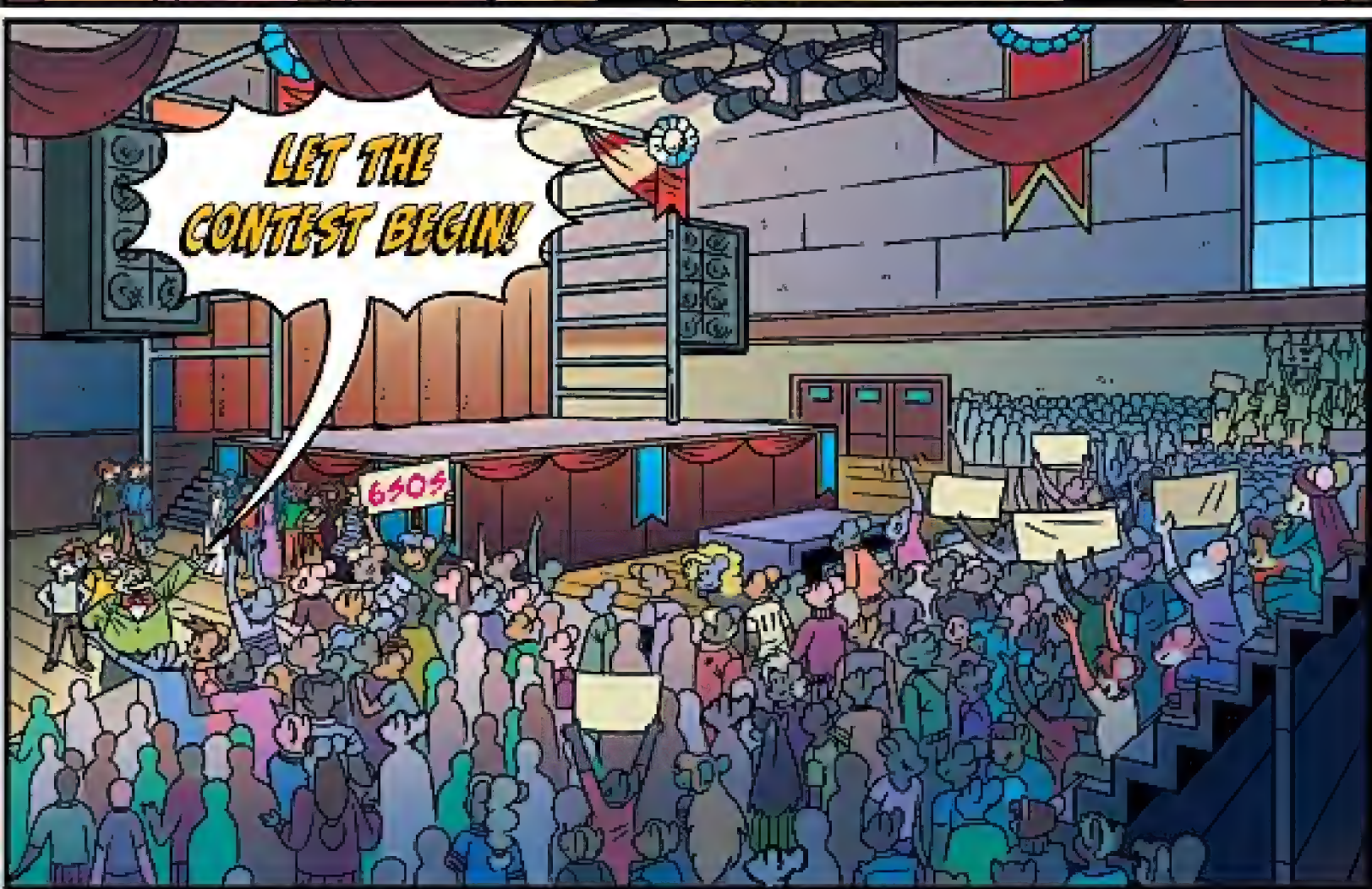
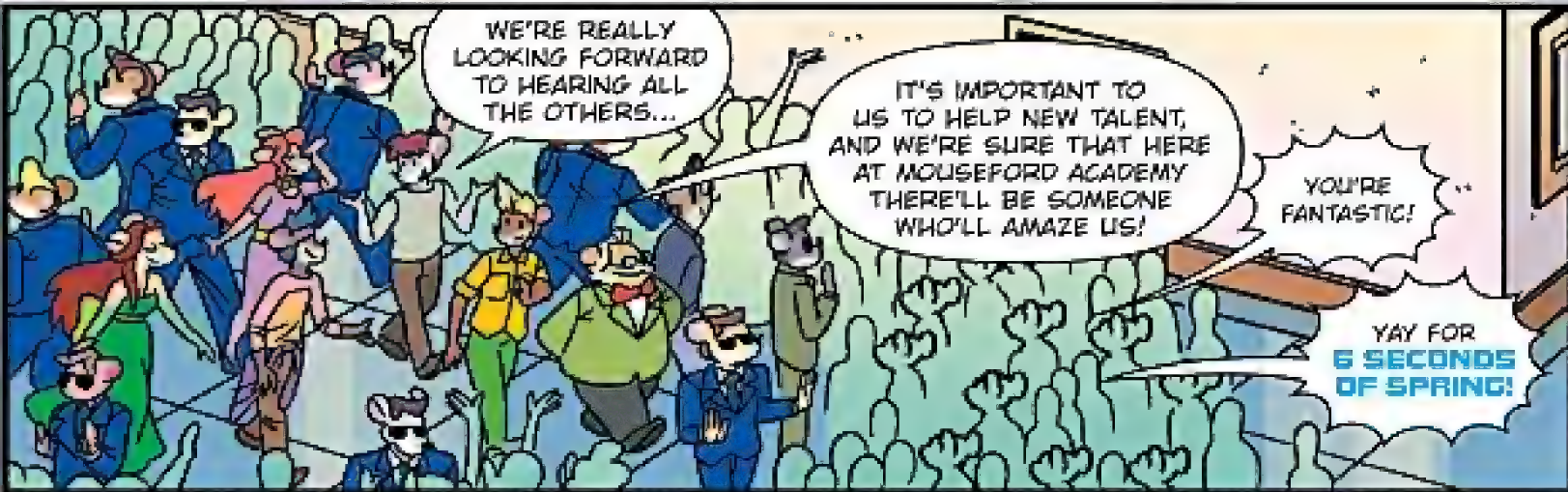
GREAT TO MEET YOU, BOYS! LET ME TAKE YOU INTO MOUSEFORD ACADEMY!

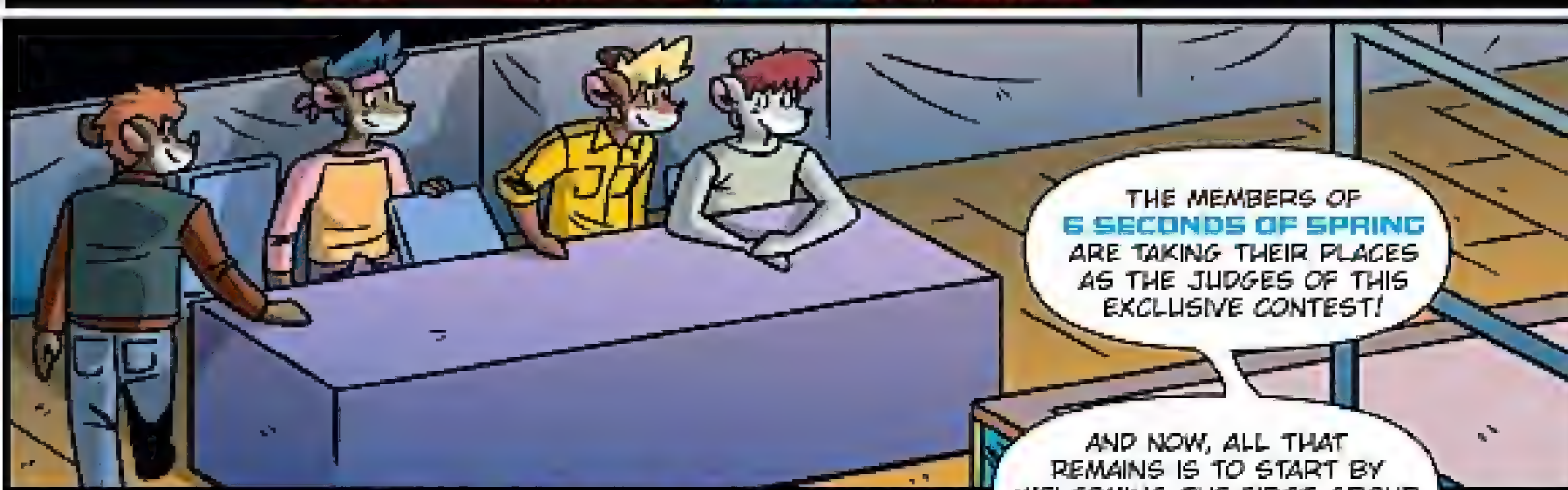
WHAT WAS THE MATTER, LITTLE SIS? IT SEEMED TO ME YOU WERE HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE!

WHO, ME?! NO WAY!

OH, AND DID I MENTION THAT BOTH VIC AND VANILLA ARE PARTICIPATING IN YOUR CONTEST! THEY'RE SOOOOO GOOD!

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING THEM!







ONE...TWO...ONE, TWO, THREE...FOUR!





ON THE STAGE IN THE MOUSEFORD ACADEMY GYM, THE CONTEST CONTINUES IN A BATTLE OF MUSICAL PERFORMANCES...



WITH QUITE
DIFFERENT
OUTCOMES...

I LOOK INSIDE ME AND
WHAT I SEE, IS A GIRL WHO
BELIEVES IN FANTASY. DON'T
PRETEND YOU KNOW WHAT I
AM, BECAUSE I'M WATER
CAUGHT IN A DAM.

DON'T YOU
THINK MY LITTLE
GIRL IS GREAT?

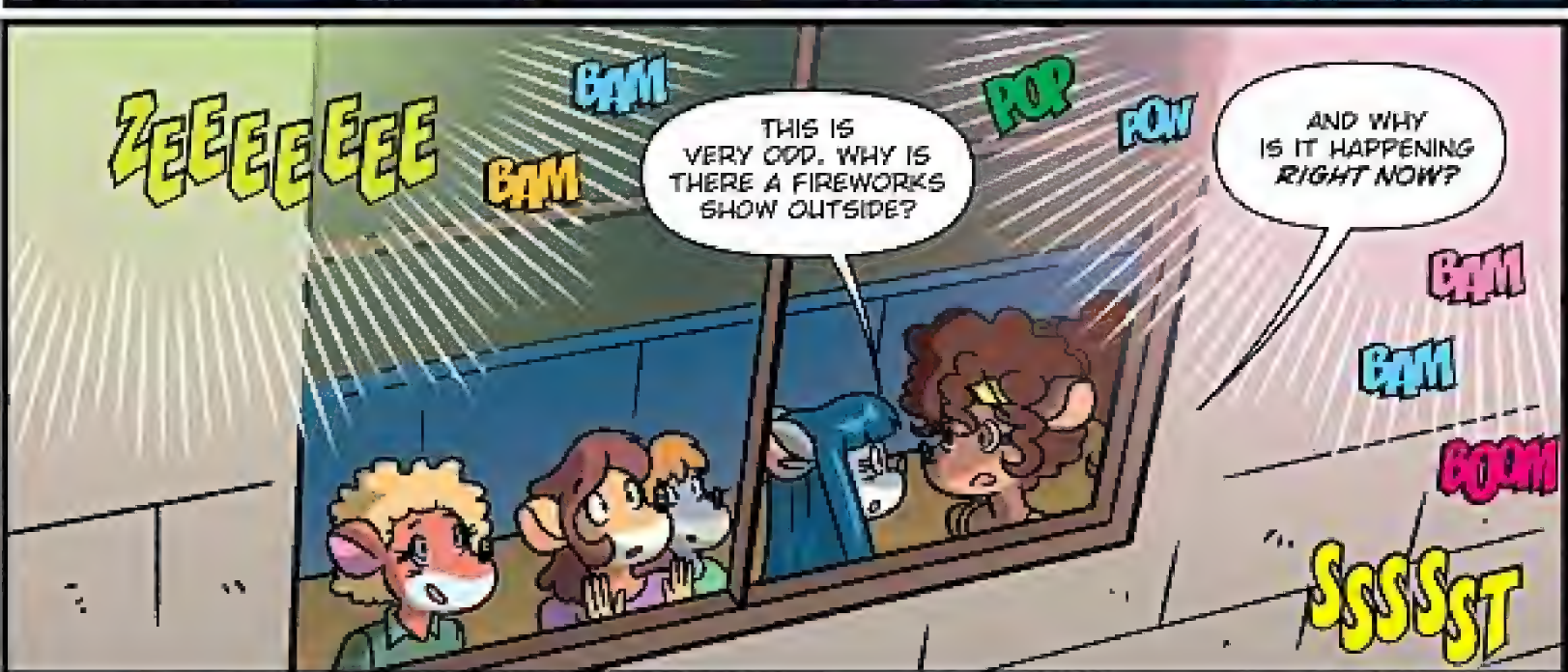
Y-YES...
THAT'S JUST WHAT
I WAS THINKING...

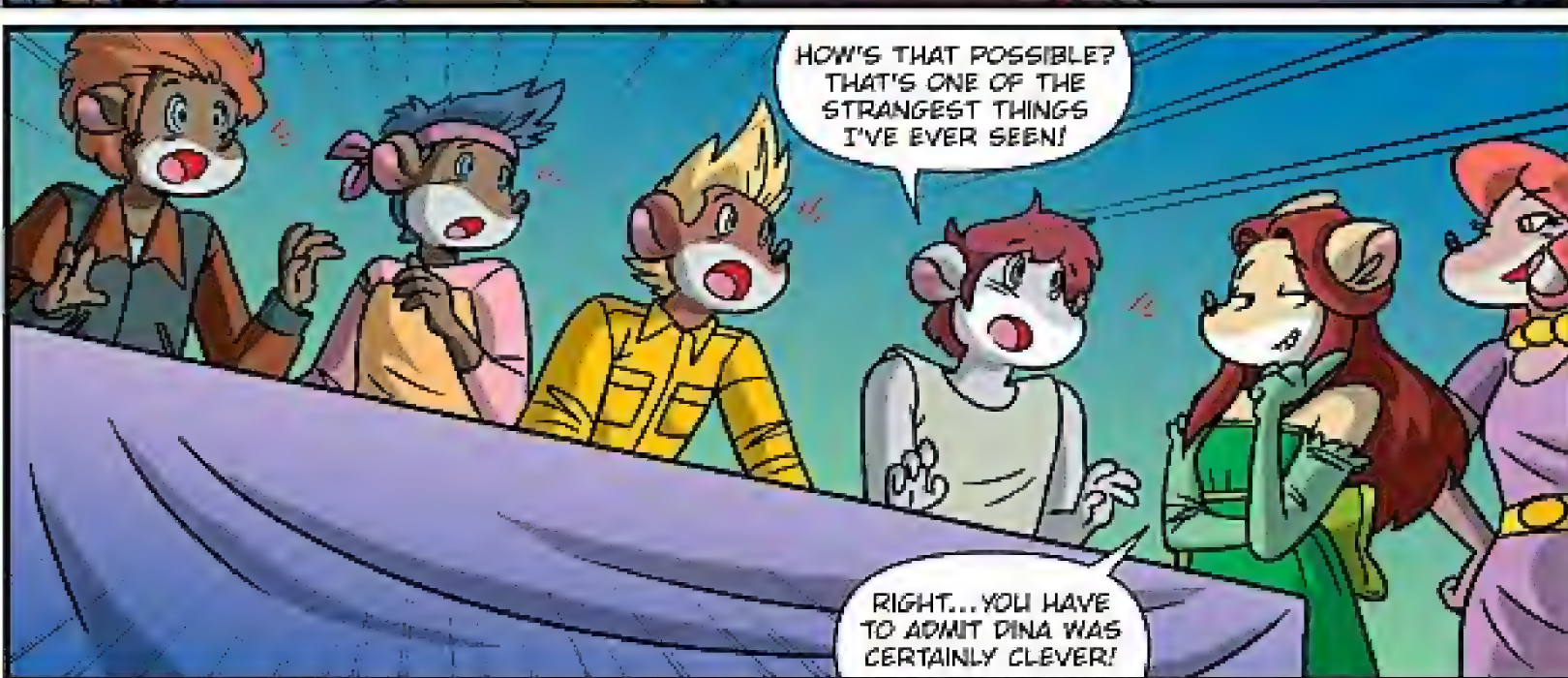
MY POOR
EARS...

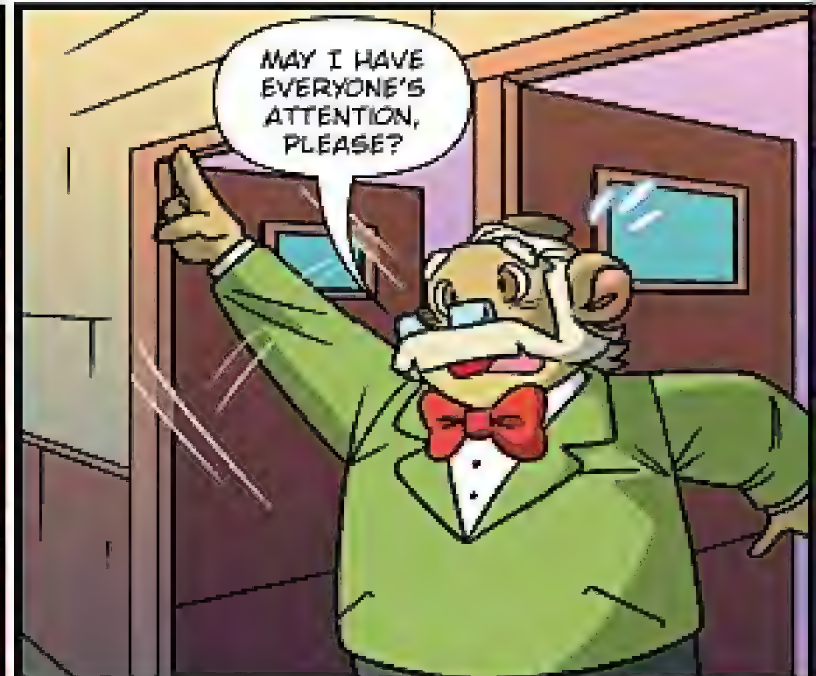
...UNTIL THE LAST
PERFORMANCE...

THE NAME OF MY
SONG IS "*An Ocean
in his Eyes.*"

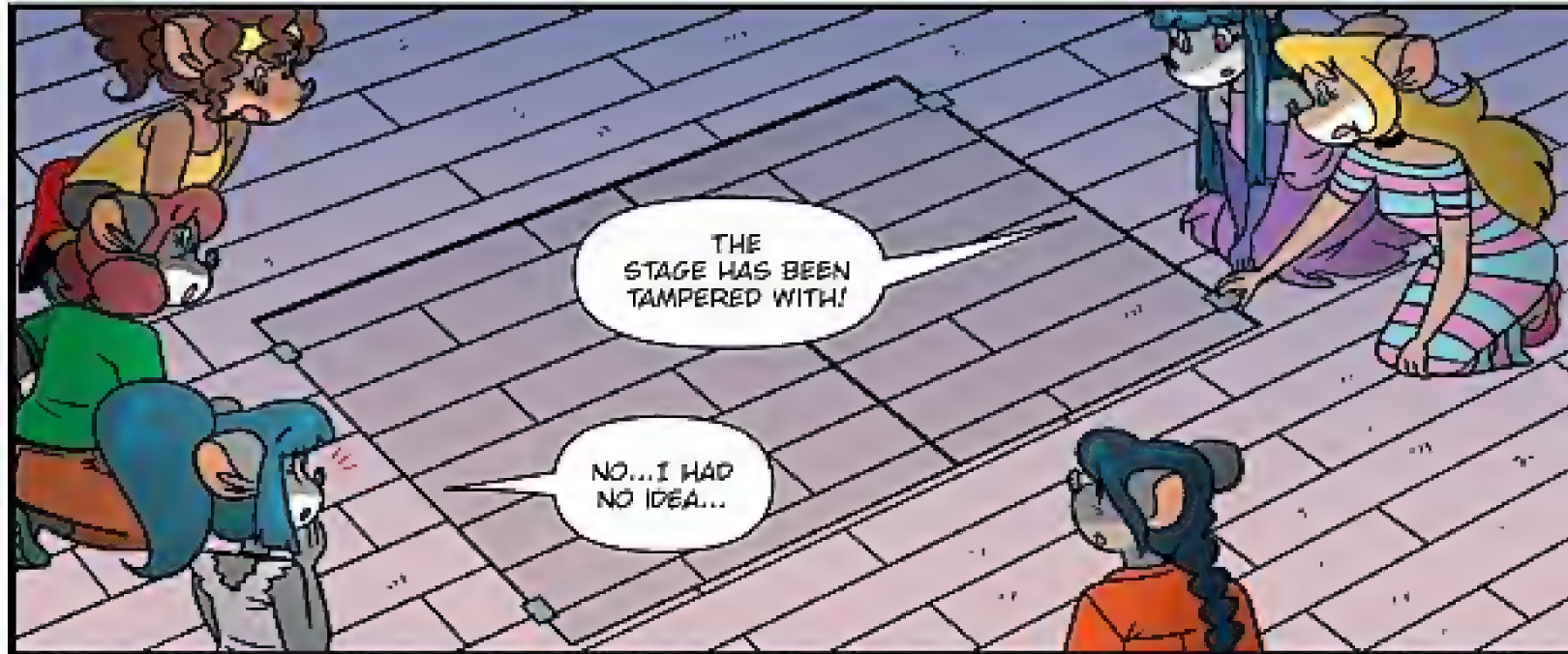














IT WOULD MAKE A LOT MORE SENSE, DON'T YOU THINK? DINA WOULDN'T HAVE HAD ANY REASON TO DO SUCH A THING!

ARE YOU INSINUATING SOMETHING, DARLING?



AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE HERE, DON'T YOU THINK?



I KNOW YOU NEED TO MAKE A DECISION, BUT WE'RE JUST ASKING YOU TO WAIT A FEW MINUTES...

...GIVE US TIME TO TRY TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS...



UM... I'M IN. WHAT DO YOU SAY, GUYS?

I AGREE. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I WANT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, TOO.



PERMISSION GRANTED, GIRLS. YOU'VE GOT A QUARTER OF AN HOUR, AFTER WHICH WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION.

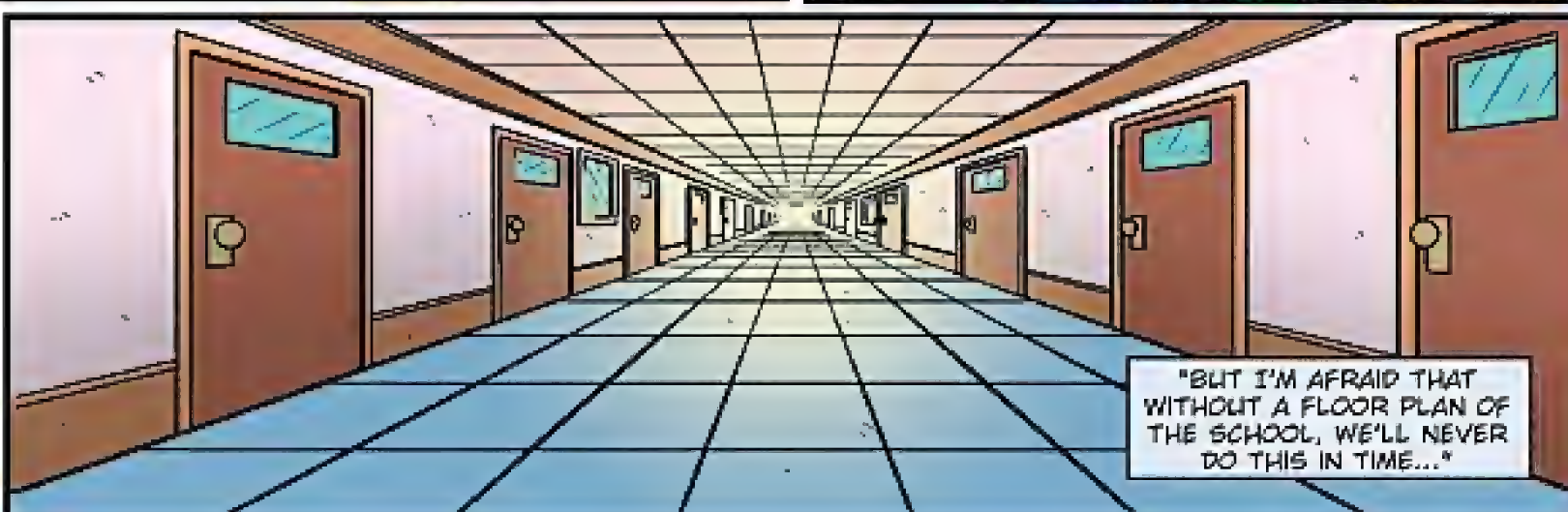
YES! THANKS SO MUCH, MR. WOOD!

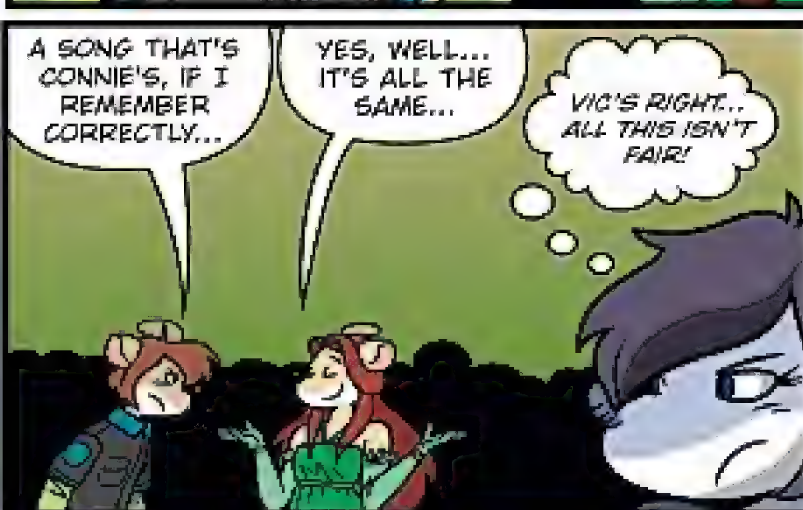
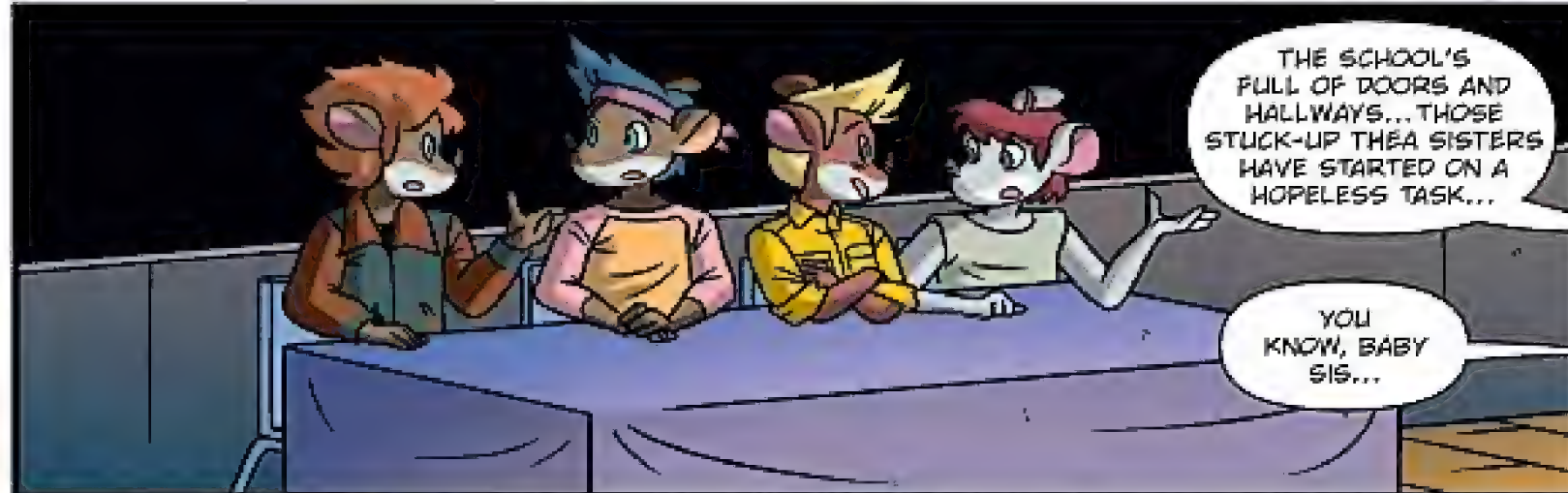
WE WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU!



READY TO UNCOVER ANOTHER MYSTERY?

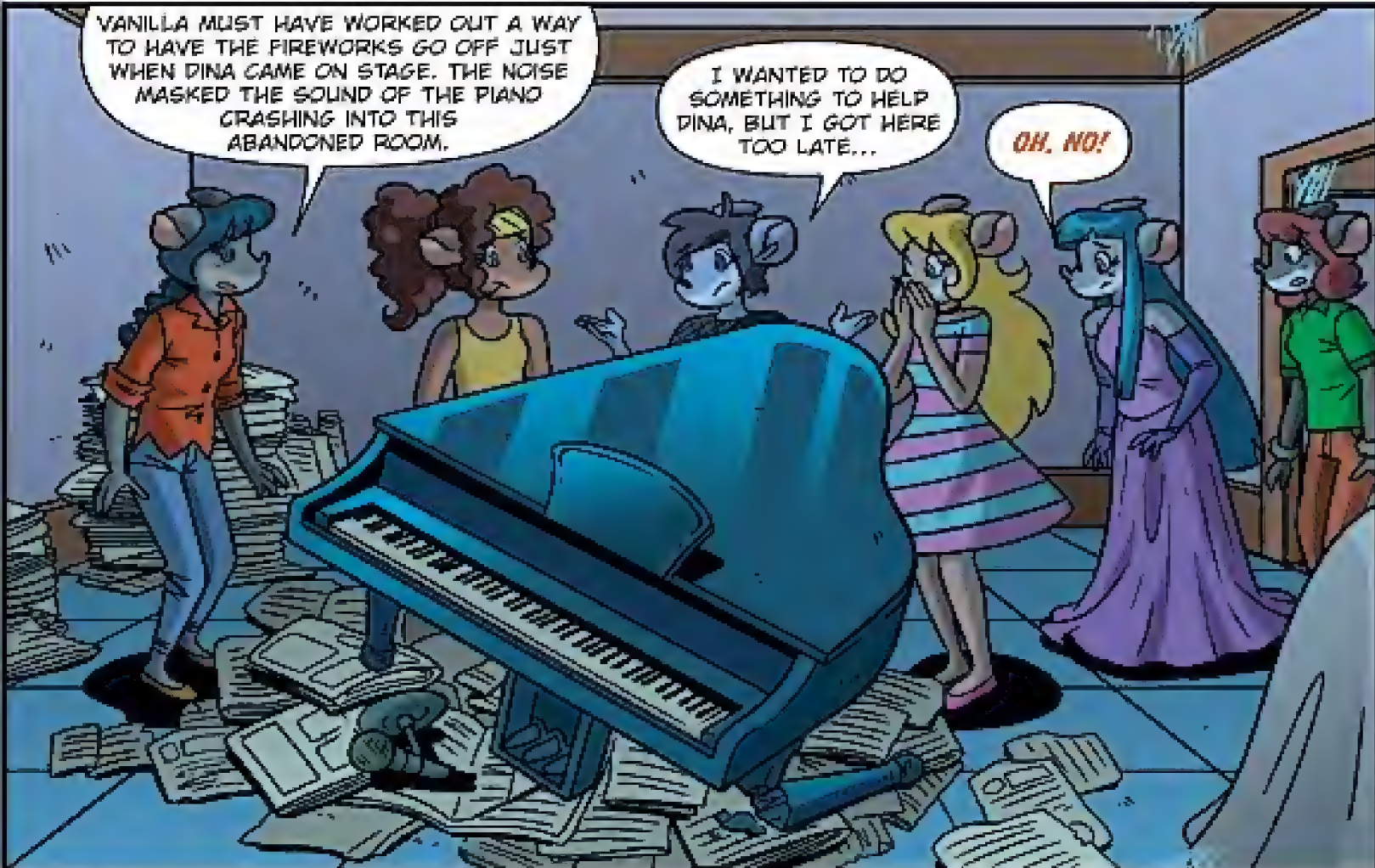
YES! THE THEA SISTERS ARE ON THE CASE!





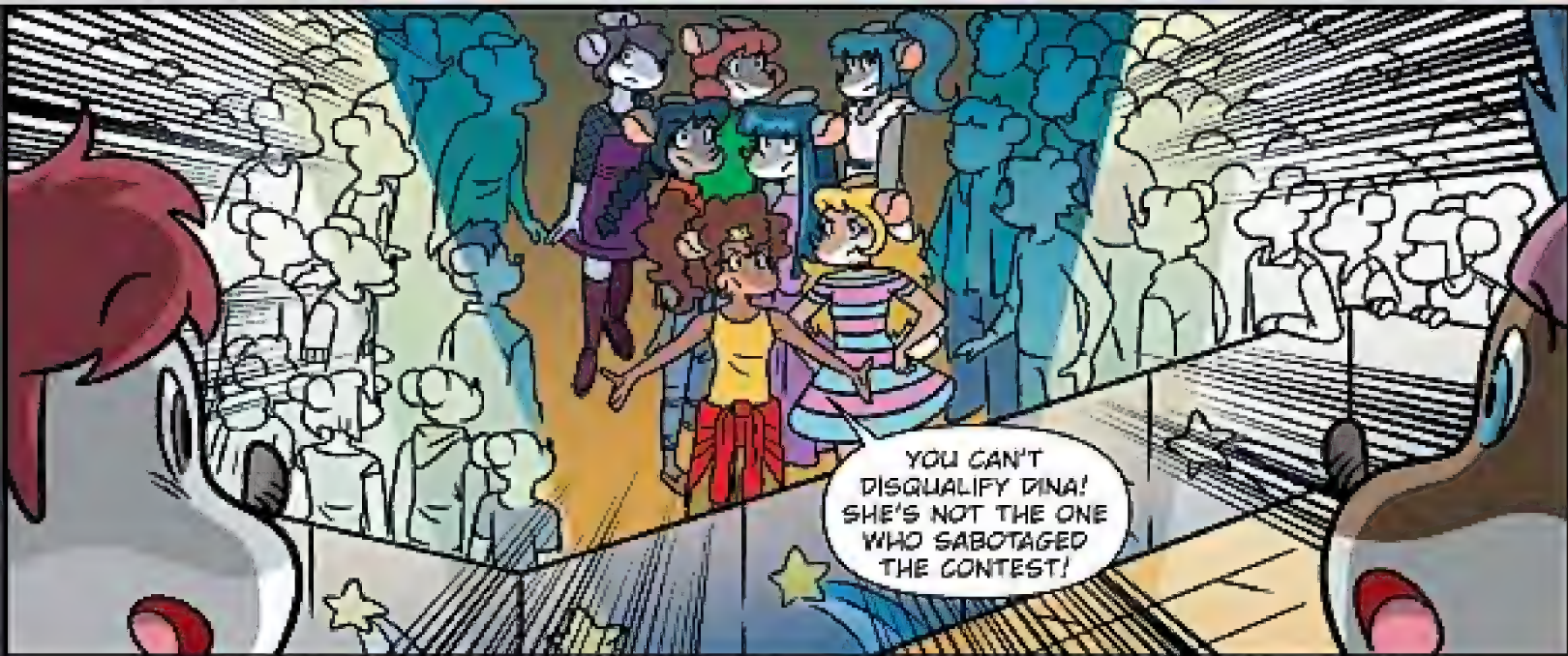














THE TIME FOR THE BIG
DECISION HAS ARRIVED...

♪PSSST...♪
♪PSSST...♪

♪PSSST...♪
♪PSSST...♪

I'M SO NERVOUS,
GIRLS!

IT'LL BE FINE,
DINA! DON'T
WORRY!

IN ANY CASE, I COULDN'T
HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT
YOU! THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

I KNOW
YOU WON'T BE ABLE
TO BELIEVE IT, DINA...
BUT WE AREN'T THE
ONES YOU SHOULD
BE THANKING!

A LARGE PART OF THE CREDIT
IS CONNIE'S! SHE'S THE ONE
WHO TOLD US WHAT
HAPPENED!

CONNIE?
NOW THAT'S
REALLY NICE!

COMPETITORS
UP ON THE STAGE,
PLEASE!

WE'VE
REACHED A
DECISION!



WHAT DID DINA ASK? ALL WE CAN DO
IS WAIT FOR THE START OF THE MOST-
ANTICIPATED CONCERTS EVER ON
Whale Island...

6505!
6505!

6505!
6505!

6505!
6505!

IT'S SO EXCITING,
GIRLS! I DON'T KNOW
IF I'M READY!

ME, NEITHER!
I COULDN'T GET
MY HAIR THE WAY I
WANTED IN TIME! HOW
EMBARRASSING!

DINA,
CONNIE...
ARE YOU
READY?

ABSOLUTELY
YES, GIRLS!

I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO
THANK YOU,
DINA!

COME UP ON
STAGE WITH ME
AND LET EVERYONE
SEE WHAT WE
CAN DO!

I'LL FOLLOW
YOUR LEAD!



Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ™



Welcome to the song-filled, soundless seventh THEA STILTON graphic novel reported by Thea Stilton (as told to Francisco Savino, writer, and Ryan Jampole, artist) from Papercutz, that mixed bag of musicians and non-musicians that are dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages. I'm Salicrup, *Jim Salicrup*, the rhythmically-challenged Editor-in-Chief and one-time piano student. Our publisher, Terry Nantier, plays drums, and our newest Production Coordinator, Sasha Kimiatek plays violin. We're not sure if any other members of the Papercutz staff or the THEA STILTON creative team play musical instruments, but we'll ask them and report our findings in THEA STILTON #8.

To back up a bit, let me once again offer a quick explanation of this graphic novel series. As Thea Stilton herself spells out on our inside front cover, Thea is a special correspondent to the Rodent's Gazette, the most famous newspaper on Mouse Island, and she also teaches journalism at Mouseford Academy, where she got to know five very special students—Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, and Violet—who formed the Thea Sisters, a group inspired by and named after her. So not only do the girls aspire to be top-notch journalists, they also know how to rock, as shown in this very graphic novel. The confusing part about all this is that this series is called THEA STILTON, but she's rarely in the actual stories she's telling here. That's why we're trying to work "the Thea Sisters" into the titles now, to avoid any possible confusion. But as the girls prove in this issue, they're so talented, there's almost nothing they can't do.



Photo by Diana Fawaz Kimiatek

But maybe we shouldn't be so surprised. Just last year, the Nobel Prize for Literature went to Bob Dylan—a musician! It was the lyrics he wrote that really garnered the award, as opposed to his guitar (or harmonica) playing or singing. So maybe the idea of five journalism students forming a band isn't so crazy after all? It all comes down to communication. While many pop songs may just be designed to simply be fun and entertaining, many songs also contain interesting little stories. Obviously love songs may express everything from simple declarations of love to complicated tales of romantic relationships. While some may have a true gift for song-writing, such as Dina, many of us may be closer to Vanilla de Vissien, not to mention Harmony Smurf! (You know who he is, right? If not, check out any of THE SMURFS graphic novels from Papercutz.)

While in "The Watch Out For Papercutz" page in THEA STILTON #6 we talked about how difficult it may be for print journalists these days, many young people are perhaps writing more than ever—but on social media! Everyone seems to be texting each other, or posting on Facebook, or in the case of our newest president—Tweeting! The point is, almost everyone has become a journalist to some extent. Unfortunately, not everyone studies to be a journalist, so what's reported on social media shouldn't be trusted to necessarily be the truth. Then again, even the most respected journalists are routinely accused of being biased these days. Finding the truth can be quite a struggle sometimes. But fortunately, there are still many like the Thea Sisters, Thea Stilton, and (her brother and Editor of The Rodent's Gazette) Geronimo Stilton devoted to trying to report the truth and serve society by keeping us well-informed on what's going on in the world.

If all of the above sounds to you like we have a lot of respect for journalists, you're right. Many of the best have risked their lives to be able to tell us the truth at very important times in history, some have actually helped change history for the better. If, like the Thea Sisters, you're thinking about becoming a journalist, we wish you the very best of luck! (Of course we support anything that you aspire to be—as there are so many wonderful careers you can choose from!)

And then there's us—comicbook makers dedicated to telling stories that we hope entertain you, and maybe, sometimes inspire you.

Thanks,

Jim

Stay in Touch!

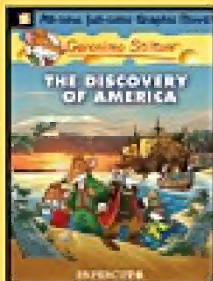
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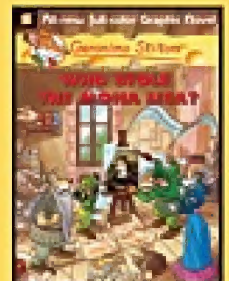
#4

"Following the Trail of Marco Polo"



#5

"The Great Ice Age"



#6

"Who Stole the Mona Lisa?"



#7

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#8

"Play It Again, Mozart!"



#9

"The Weird Book Machine"



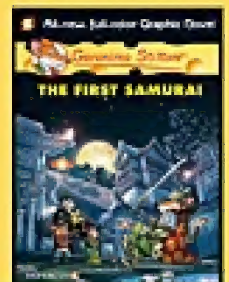
#10

"Geronimo Stilton Saves the Olympics"



#11

"We'll Always Have Paris"



#12

"The First Samurai"



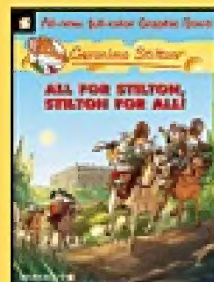
#13

"The Fastest Train in the West"



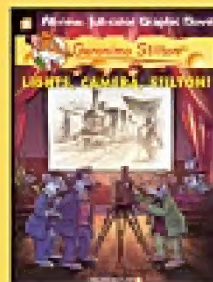
#14

"The First Mouse on the Moon"



#15

"All for Stilton, Stilton for All!"



#16

"Lights, Camera, Stilton!"



#17

"The Mystery of the Pirate Ship"



#18

"First to the Last Place on Earth!"

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The Thea Sisters SING!

The pop concert of the year is about to take place at Mouseford Academy—the boy band 6 Seconds of Spring is set to perform! To make it even more special, 6SOS is holding a talent contest—and the winner gets to be the opening act for the pop sensation!

Among those competing are Dina Squid, Vanilla de Vissen, Vic de Vissen, and the Thea Sisters —Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, and Violet. But something happens that threatens to throw everything into chaos! The show must go on and it is up to the Thea Sisters to crack the case!



The Thea Sisters are five fun, lively students at Mouseford Academy on Whale Island, who want to be real, live journalists. Between classes and friendships, love and small fits of jealousy, they find life at the Academy to be a never-ending adventure!



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